

County of Orange Public Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
**West Nile Virus testing**

Orange County Health Care Agency/ Epidemiology [(714) 834-8180]  
MUST be notified of this case prior to submission of specimens.

**Specimens will be accepted on cases that meet one of the following case definitions:**

A. ***Viral Encephalitis***\* characterized by:

- Encephalopathy (depressed or altered level of consciousness, lethargy, or personality change), and one or more of the following
- Fever ( $T \geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), seizure(s), focal neurologic findings, CSF pleocytosis, abnormal EEG, abnormal neuroimaging.

B. ***Aseptic meningitis*** (patients  $\geq 17$  years of age) characterized by:

- Fever ( $T \geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), Headache, stiff neck and/or other meningeal signs
- CSF pleocytosis

C. ***Acute Flaccid Paralysis/Atypical Guillain-Barré Syndrome*** characterized by:

- Fever ( $T \geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), altered mental status, and/or CSF pleocytosis

\* The California Encephalitis Project at the State of California Department of Health Services offers an extensive battery of testing for encephalitis cases. To request testing for additional agents for encephalitis cases, contact Somayeh Honarmand at (510) 307-8608.

**Instructions for Sending Specimens**

**Specimens Requested**

**1. Required**

- ☐ **Acute Serum** -  $\geq 2\text{cc}$  serum collected  $\leq 7$  days after onset
- ☐ **Cerebral Spinal Fluid** – 1-2cc CSF *if lumbar puncture was performed*
- ☐ **Convalescent Serum** -  $\geq 2\text{cc}$  serum collected 10-14 days after onset

- ☐ Each specimen should be labeled with **date of collection**, **specimen type**, and **patient name**.
- ☐ Each specimen must be submitted with an Orange County Public Health Laboratory test requisition, available from the lab.
- ☐ Specimens should be sent on **cold pack**, pick-up can be arranged by calling the OC lab.
- ☐ A completed **West Nile Case History** form must accompany the specimens.
- ☐ Send to Local Public Health Laboratory:

Orange County Public Health Lab  
1729 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St.

Santa Ana, CA 92706

- ☐ **Please do not send specimens on a Friday**. Refrigerate specimens over the weekend and send on Monday.

Questions?

Call Orange County Public Health Laboratory  
(714) 834-8326